



## San Joaquin Valley and Southern Sierra Region

# WING BEAT NEWS

SEPTEMBER 2006

<http://www.dfg.ca.gov/reg4/wingbeat/>

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## RENEWING YOUR WING BEAT NEWS SUBSCRIPTION

We are required to reaffirm our subscribers' interest to ensure that funds are not going to waste by printing and mailing copies of *Wing Beat News* to addresses that are no longer current, or to individuals who are no longer interested in receiving the newsletter.

If you would like to continue receiving *Wing Beat News*, please email [losbanosinfo@dfg.ca.gov](mailto:losbanosinfo@dfg.ca.gov) or send a postcard with your name and address to:

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Postcards and emails must be received by November 17, 2006 to remain on the mailing list. Please be aware that renewals will be accepted by postcard and email only; telephone calls will not be accepted. Names and addresses for which we do not receive a request for renewal will be deleted from the mailing list. We hope you decide to stay with us!

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### NOTICE TO HUNTERS:

Due to ongoing staffing shortages, some of the consolidations of check station operations that occurred last year will continue this season.

We are trying hard to maintain hunting opportunities, and we appreciate hunters' efforts to be informed, prepared, and patient.

2-day passes will not be sold at check stations, but will still be available from other normal sources. Annual passes will still be available at the check stations.

### REMINDER OF CHANGES TO CHECK STATION OPERATIONS AT TYPE A AREAS IN THE GRASSLANDS VICINITY

**ALL CHECKING STATIONS:** On the morning of each hunt after all reservation holders, lottery participants, and those people on the first-come, first-served list have been processed and issued permits, any remaining persons on the lottery or first-come lists that are not present will be removed from the list. If the area reaches its maximum capacity before all persons on the lottery or first come lists are issued permits, remaining persons on those lists will be called to reaffirm their interest in remaining on the waiting list for refilling the area. For example, if the hunt area reaches maximum capacity when lottery draw number 7 checks through, lottery draw number 8 becomes first on the list for refilling the area.

If the hunter who drew number 8 is not present, that person will be removed from the waiting list, along with any others not present. If lottery draw number 9 is present, they will be moved to first on the list. A revised waiting list of those still present will be made in which hunters will maintain their order of entry relative to others who are still present and waiting.

Persons on the revised waiting list may indicate a hunting assignment preference. Each person may indicate a maximum of 2 choices. If vacancies first occur for assignments other than the choices indicated, permits will be issued to the next person in line who does not have a specific preference. If a hunter rejects an area of choice, that person will be moved to the end of the list and a permit will be issued to the next person.

At all checking stations, persons signing up for the first-come, first-served list, to be called after the lottery draw, must do so in person. If that person is with another person, they must both sign up as a party or as individuals. Persons signing as a party will receive the same hunt assignment in the same manner as those entering with a reservation or a lottery number. They will not be allowed to take a separate assignment. If they sign in as individuals and only one hunt assignment is available, only one person will receive the assignment. This is intended to provide better and more equitable hunting opportunities. For example, suppose there is a party of two hunting in zone six, field 32 at the Los Banos WLA. There are three blinds in this field: 4, 5, and 12. If this party split and each hunter took a blind, they would control hunting on  $\frac{2}{3}$  of the field, depriving another party or individual the opportunity to hunt from one of these blinds.

No permits will be issued and no hunt assignments will be changed after 3:00 p.m. each hunt day. This is for the benefit of those hunting and for the checking station staff. The personnel in the checking stations have several reports that must be completed before the end of the day. This shut off time allows them to complete this work prior to the evening rush as hunters leave the area. For the hunters' benefit, waterfowl are starting to work by 3:00 p.m. and persons moving around setting up decoys, etc. after that time tend to flare birds away from hunting areas, therefore impacting evening hunting. This change has helped reduce hunter conflicts during the evening hunting period.

**ADA Accessible Blinds at Los Banos and North Grasslands Wildlife Areas, Merced NWR and the Kesterson Unit:** The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) accessible blinds will be held for eligible persons until 2:00 p.m. If there is no one in line requiring these blinds at that time they will be open to general use. Holding the ADA accessible blinds until 2:00 p.m. is consistent with the Sacramento Valley federal operations and gives hunters requiring ADA accessibility that have

trouble arriving early in the morning an opportunity to hunt. This change will unify all of the Grasslands vicinity public hunting operations.

**North Grasslands WLA – Gadwall Unit:** The Gadwall Unit will not be open for dove hunting. The area has very little dove hunting opportunity and is a major holding area for early arriving migrant waterfowl, such as pintail and green-winged teal, for the south grasslands vicinity. Closing the Gadwall Unit to dove hunting will reduce disturbance to waterfowl and other wetland dependent species and should improve early season duck hunting.

**North Grasslands WLA – China Island Unit:** With some exceptions (see \* below) during the pheasant season, permits to hunt the China Island Unit during the waterfowl/pheasant season will be issued at the Kesterson Unit checking station. Reservations will be taken from 2 ½ hours before waterfowl shooting time, until 1½ hours before shooting time. Reservations will become void at that time.

The lottery for the China Island Unit non-reservation line up will be held at the Kesterson checking station on the night prior to the hunt. Registration will be between 6:00 and 9:00 p.m.

The Highway 140 parking lots on the China Island Unit will not be open during the waterfowl season; only interior lots will be available. Also, permits will not be issued to allow persons to park on the Newman Wasteway to hunt the wildlife area. It is not Department land or a designated parking lot. You will be required to park in an interior lot. The primary reason for closing the lots on Highway 140 is safety: The locations of those remote lots require left hand turns across Highway 140 in dark and often foggy conditions. The bridge across Mud Slough will allow hunters to access the "Flood Plain" portion of the China Island Unit from the interior parking areas. Hunters wishing to hunt China Island with a boat may access the San Joaquin River at Great Valley Grasslands State Park on the east side of Highway 140.

**\*On the first three days of pheasant season, and on regular waterfowl hunt days during the pheasant season, permits to hunt pheasants on China Island will be issued at the Kesterson checking station. On all other days that the area is open to pheasant only hunting, permits will be issued at the Los Banos checking station.**

**Volta Wildlife Area:** The lottery draw to establish the order of entry after the reservation holders will be held at the **Los Banos checking station**. Registration will be between 6:00 and 9:00 p.m. on the evening before the hunt. Those that arrive after the 9:00 p.m. registration time will be issued permits after the lottery draw

recipients, by the order in which they are parked in line at the Volta checking station.

**San Luis N.W.R. – Kesterson Unit:** Blinds 28, 29, 30, and 31 will be refilled as soon as all blinds have been vacated and there are enough people waiting to fill at least three blinds, or at 2:00 p.m., whichever occurs first. Filling these blinds as soon as they are all vacated provides more hunting opportunity. The checking station will start issuing permits to reservation holders 2 ½ hours before waterfowl shooting time.

**San Luis N.W.R. – Freitas Units, North and South:** Permits will be issued to reservation holders starting at 6:00 p.m. the evening before the hunt, until 3:00 a.m. on the morning of the hunt. Reservations will be void after 3:00 a.m., which coincides with the time that non-reservation hunters can be processed to access this unit. Therefore, non-reservation hunters can be processed immediately at 3:00 a.m. without conflict to reservation holders. If non-reservation hunters would like to receive their permit in a timely manner, be at the check station between 3:00 a.m. and 2 ½ hours before shoot time to prevent waiting until all other reservation holders at other units have been issued permits.

### LOTTERY SYSTEM WILL REMAIN ON ALL MERCED COUNTY WILDLIFE AREAS AND REFUGES

As with past seasons, the Northern San Joaquin Valley waterfowl hunting areas will be using a lottery system to establish order of entry for all non-reservation waterfowl and pheasant hunters. Although intended to mimic the reservation system, a lottery number does not guarantee entry; the lottery number provides an order of entry if and when space is available. At check stations with multiple lotteries, hunters may only sign up for one lottery for a single hunt area.

The following table indicates the hunting areas that will use the lottery system and the corresponding check station that will hold the lottery drawing.

Hunt Area	Check Station Where Lottery Will Be Held
Los Banos Wildlife Area	Los Banos Check Station
Volta Wildlife Area	Los Banos Check Station
China Island Unit of North Grasslands Wildlife Area (NGWA)	Kesterson Check Station
Salt Slough Unit of NGWA	Salt Slough Check Station
Gadwall Unit of NGWA	Salt Slough Check Station
Merced National Wildlife Refuge	Los Banos Check Station
San Luis Unit of the San Luis National Wildlife Refuge (SLNWR)	Salt Slough Check Station
Kesterson Unit of the SLNWR	Kesterson Check Station
North Freitas Unit of the SLNWR	Kesterson Check Station
South Freitas Unit of the SLNWR	Salt Slough Check Station
West Bear Creek Unit of the SLNWR	Salt Slough Check Station

The checking station staff will begin issuing permits to persons with reservations for each area at the following times:

**Los Banos WLA, Volta WLA and the Merced NWR:** Two hours before shoot time.

**Salt Slough, China Island, and Gadwall Units, San Luis NWR, including Blue Goose, Kesterson, and West Bear Creek Units:** Two and one-half hours before shoot time.

**Freitas Unit of the SLNWR, North and South:** 6:00 p.m. the prior day until 3:00 a.m. If vacancies occur, lottery numbers will be called between 3:00 a.m. and shooting time. No permits will be issued between shoot time and 11:00 a.m. Refills will be issued permits after 11:00 a.m.

The following table summarizes the timeline of lottery events.

Time	Activity	Explanation
6:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m.	Lottery Registration	Hunters must register for the lottery in person. Hunters going in as a guest of the hunter that is registered need not enter in the lottery.  Hunters may register in the same lottery only once per day, but may apply for several different lotteries at separate check stations for the same day.
9:00 p.m.	Lottery Drawing	Computerized random lottery draw to determine the order of entry for those registered in the lottery.
Shortly after 9:00 p.m.	Posting of Lottery Results	Results from lottery draw indicating the order of entry will be posted outside the checking station.
9:00 p.m. to the beginning of shoot time	Post-lottery Arrivals	Sign up on a first-come, first-served basis for openings not filled by reservation holders or lottery participants.
2 ½ - 2 hours before shoot time (time varies among hunt areas)	Filling the Hunt Area	1 <sup>st</sup> – Admittance of reservation holders  2 <sup>nd</sup> – Admittance of lottery draw participants  3 <sup>rd</sup> – Admittance of first-come, first served list to fill remaining vacancies  (Volta WLA hunters will be processed in the order they are parked.)

## INFORMATION ABOUT WATERFOWL RESERVATIONS

As with previous years, hunters can apply for reservations using the daily, 5-day, or season-long application forms. Near the first week of September, a renewal packet containing a season-long application and information about the drawing system will be sent to all persons who applied for reservations last year.

All waterfowl reservation applications must be received at the License and Revenue Branch (LRB) **at least 17 days before** the requested shoot date in order to be included in the drawings. **Late applications are disqualified without exception.**

What is the single most important thing that you can do to improve your odds of being drawn for a reservation? Make certain that your application is received at the LRB before the application deadline!

Don't let not drawing a reservation keep you from hunting. Many hunters that successfully draw a reservation don't show up, leaving many vacancies. In fact, usually only fifty percent or less of reservation holders show up.

When applying for reservations, remember that the Merced NWR is open on Wednesday and Saturday only; do not waste a reservation application by marking Sunday for Merced NWR. Also, the West Bear Creek Unit and the goose blinds at Merced NWR will not open until the third Saturday in November.

## WATERFOWL AND PHEASANT SEASON FEE SCHEDULE 2006-2007

The following table indicates current fees for the permits and hunting stamps that will be available through check stations this year. Two-day passes will not be sold at check stations, but will be available from regular license agents.

One-day Reservation Application*	\$1.25
Five-day Reservation Application*	\$6.25
Type A One-day Entry Permit	\$14.75
Type A Season Pass	\$112.25
State Duck Stamp	\$14.25
State Upland Stamp	\$6.75

\* Only available at the Salt Slough / San Luis Check Stations.

## WATERFOWL & PHEASANT HUNTING OPPORTUNITIES ON PUBLIC LANDS

### STATE WILDLIFE AREAS

Persons interested in obtaining waterfowl hunt results, and hunter numbers may call (209) 826-6719, 24 hours a day. The recorded message is updated by noon every Monday during the waterfowl season. It covers the Los Banos, Volta, Salt Slough, China Island, and Mendota Wildlife Areas, and the San Luis, West Bear Creek, Kesterson, and Merced National Wildlife Refuge Units.

### **Pheasant Hunting**

The Los Banos, North Grasslands, and Mendota Wildlife Areas will be open to pheasant hunting every Saturday, Sunday, and Wednesday starting November 11, 2006. In addition, these areas will be open to dove and/or pheasant hunting on November 13, 14, 16, 17, and 24, 2006. On these five non-waterfowl hunting days, permits for the Los Banos and North Grasslands Wildlife Areas must be obtained at the Los Banos Wildlife Area check station, which will open at 7:00 a.m. Permits for the Mendota WLA must be obtained at the Mendota WLA check station. The China Island Unit/Kesterson check station is located at Kesterson and will be open Monday, November 13<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 a.m. to serve China Island and Kesterson pheasant hunters. Permits for China Island on November 14, 16, 17, and 24 must be obtained from Los Banos Wildlife Area check station.

In addition, Volta WA and San Luis unit of San Luis NWR will allow pheasant hunting on days they are open to waterfowl hunting.

When hunting for pheasants on a waterfowl hunt day with a reservation, remember that your reservation will expire at the same time as waterfowl reservations for that specific area/unit.

We anticipate releasing 150-250 male pheasants at the Los Banos Wildlife Area for the Wednesday prior to Thanksgiving pheasant hunt.

### **LOS BANOS WILDLIFE AREA**

The 6,136-acre Los Banos Wildlife Area was established in 1929. This acreage includes the Mud Slough Unit, which is reserved for junior hunters and their adult escort. Daily hunting capacity is approximately 150.

Restrooms and drinking water are available at the checking station. Chemical toilets are available at other parking lots. No public telephones are available.

Zone 6 is an area with 18 – 22 hunting blinds. All blinds at the Los Banos Wildlife Area have a maximum capacity of two persons. For example, each blind may

be used by a combination of two adult hunters, one adult hunter and one junior hunter, or one hunter and one non-shooter. These blinds are available on a first-come basis. The portion of the wildlife area not included in Zone 6 or the closed zones is open to free-roam hunting. Boats are permitted, but not needed.

Los Banos WLA check station will hold lottery drawings for Los Banos WLA, Volta WLA, and Merced NWR. Hunters may only sign up for a single hunt area for the draw. For example, a hunter may sign up for the draw for Los Banos WLA, but not Volta WLA or Merced NWR.

#### **Junior Hunting Opportunities at the Los Banos WLA**

In Zone 6 at the Los Banos Wildlife Area, three tank blinds will be reserved every shoot day for junior hunters and their escorts.

The Mud Slough Unit of the Los Banos Wildlife Area has developed into a nice area for young hunters and their adult chaperones. Six tank blinds and two stand-up blinds are available.

Only one junior and one adult may hunt from a blind.

### **VOLTA WILDLIFE AREA**

The 3,000-acre Volta WLA is owned by the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation and managed by California Department of Fish and Game for the benefit of wildlife and as a public use facility. Since 1952, this area has served many hunters and has a well established waterfowl hunting program. Late season hunting has improved in the last several years. Daily hunting capacity is approximately 110 hunters.

Chemical toilets are available at the check station and interior parking lots. No telephone, food, or drinking water is available. No hunting blinds are available. Boats are permitted but generally not needed.

When in season, hunting snipe and pheasant is permitted on the days the area is open for waterfowl hunting. Dove hunting is not permitted. Rabbit hunting is not permitted during waterfowl or pheasant season.

The lottery registration for the Volta Wildlife Area will be held at the Los Banos Wildlife Area.

### **NORTH GRASSLANDS WILDLIFE AREA**

The 7,069-acre North Grasslands Wildlife area is better known by the names of the three units that comprise it: the China Island Unit (3,325 acres), Gadwall Unit (1,503 acres), and the Salt Slough Unit (2,241 acres). Since the purchase of the first parcels in 1990, with the most recent parcel purchased in 1999, a great deal of wetland and upland development and restoration has occurred.

**China Island Unit.** In the same manner as last year, waterfowl and pheasant hunters will obtain hunt permits at the Kesterson check station located on Highway 140. The lottery for China Island will be held at the Kesterson check station on the night prior to the hunt day. Lottery registration will be between 6:00 p.m. and 9:00 p.m. Permits will be issued 2.5 hours before shoot time, beginning with reservation holders.

The public will find good all weather access to the designated parking lots. The parking lots off Highway 140 will not be open during the waterfowl season. Access by foot or bicycle to the flood plain will be from the west side of the unit via the bridge over Mud Slough, or from the east by foot access under the Highway 140 bridge by Fremont Ford Access (when low water levels in the San Joaquin River allow). This will eliminate the danger of having to make the turns off Highway 140 in the dark and/or fog.

No camping is allowed on the area. Portable chemical toilets will be available starting September 1. No telephone, food or drinking water is available.

**Salt Slough Unit.** The check station will be in operation from the beginning of waterfowl season. Camping is not permitted on the area.

Portable chemical toilets are available in the main parking lot and Lot B. No drinking water, food or public phones are available.

Zone 13 (Fields 13 and 17) is an assigned stake blind area. Blind capacity is 4 persons and hunters are required to stay within 100 yards of their assigned blind site. Blinds are available on a first-come basis. There are 5 blinds in the hunt area. Blind sites are marked with a steel post and sign, and located on islands. To change blind assignment or switch to free-roam, hunters must return to the check station in order to do so.

Field 50 is an assigned blind field. Two blinds are located in the hunt area. Blind 50-2 is a designated ADA blind (see above). Blind 50-1 is assigned on a first-come basis. Hunter capacity for both blinds is 3 persons.

**Gadwall Unit.** Flooding of a few ponds, including the closed zone should begin by mid-August. Reservations for Gadwall will be available through the statewide system. However, as in the past, waterfowl and pheasant hunting permits for the Gadwall Unit will be issued from the Salt Slough Unit check station. Issuance of permits for reservation holders will begin 2 and one-half hours before shoot time.

Portable chemical toilets are available at the parking lots. No public telephone, food or drinking water is available.

Dove hunting is not permitted. Rabbit hunting is not permitted during waterfowl season.

There are blinds on the Gadwall Unit but are neither assigned nor maintained. The locations of these blinds are marked on the Gadwall Unit map. **Beware of rattlesnakes when hunting this area!** Camping is not permitted on the area.

### **MENDOTA WILDLIFE AREA**

The 12,000-acre Mendota Wildlife Area is located in western Fresno County. With a capacity of 600, it accommodates the largest number of waterfowl and pheasant hunters in central California. This area provides many opportunities for both waterfowl and upland game hunting.

Chemical toilets are available at the check station and most parking lots. No telephone, food, or drinking water is available. Boats without motors can be used in the ponds; boats with motors are allowed in Fresno Slough. The checking station will start issuing permits to reservation holders two hours before shooting time, except on opening day of waterfowl season when permits will be issued three hours before shooting time. Reservations must be presented to the checking station by one hour before shooting time.

Dove and snipe hunting is permitted during the legal seasons on the days the area is open for waterfowl and/or pheasant hunting.

### **NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGES**

Several national wildlife refuges are open to waterfowl hunting in the San Joaquin Valley & Southern Sierra Region. While these areas are owned and managed by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, the California Department of Fish and Game operates the public hunt program through a cooperative agreement. The San Luis National Wildlife Refuge Complex is located in Merced County and includes the West Bear Creek, San Luis, Blue Goose, Kesterson, and Freitas Units, and the Merced National Wildlife Refuge. The Kern National Wildlife Refuge is located northwest of Bakersfield in Kern County.

General information regarding hunting at San Luis and Merced may be obtained through the Los Banos Wildlife Area Complex office at (209) 826-0463. Specific information regarding water distribution, habitat conditions, and field management is available by calling the San Luis National Wildlife Refuge Complex office at (209) 826-3508. Information about the Kern NWR can be obtained by calling (661) 725-6504 for recorded information during the hunting season. Consult each area leaflet for map and further area specific regulations.

Steel shot or other approved non-toxic shot is required for all hunting on federal areas, including pheasant and snipe hunting. No alcoholic beverages are permitted in the field on any federal public hunting area.

### **SAN LUIS NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE**

Persons wishing to hunt at the West Bear Creek, San Luis, or Blue Goose Units must check in at the Salt Slough Unit checking station on Wolfsen Road to obtain a permit. Overnight parking for reservation holders and those with lottery or first-come, first served numbers is available at the Salt Slough Unit checking station. Hunttable species at these units include ducks, geese, coots, and moorhens. Within the free-roam area of the San Luis Unit, snipe and pheasant hunting are permitted during the waterfowl hunt. Shooting days are on Wednesdays, Saturdays, and Sundays during the appropriate seasons.

**West Bear Creek Unit:** The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service has scheduled the West Bear Creek Unit to open for public waterfowl hunting the 3rd Saturday in November. Call (209) 826-0463 or (209) 826-3508 for additional information. Hunters must check in at the Salt Slough Unit check station and choose one of the six designated wetland units. To control the number of persons hunting each unit, hunters that wish to move to another hunting location are required to return to the checking station to have their permit changed. Maximum capacity will be 36 hunters. Pheasant hunting is not allowed on the West Bear Creek Unit.

**San Luis and Blue Goose Units:** There are no major changes on the San Luis or Blue Goose Units this year. Flood-up conditions will influence the opening day quota; total maximum capacity for these two units is 116 hunters.

The San Luis Unit is a free roam area. All hunting at the Blue Goose Unit is done from blinds. The area will offer 4-three person stand-up blinds, 3-three person tank blinds, and 1-two person barrel blind on an assigned blind basis.

The San Luis Unit will be open to pheasant hunting in conjunction with waterfowl hunting every Saturday, Sunday and Wednesday during the pheasant season. Pheasant Hunting is not allowed on the Blue Goose Unit.

Public telephones, food services, and drinking water are not available. Chemical toilets are available at the parking lots on the San Luis, West Bear Creek, and Blue Goose Units. Boats are not allowed at these three units.

Reservation cards are numbered and will be called in numerical order starting at two and a half hours prior to shoot time. Reservations not present when called are skipped but still may be used until one hour prior to

shoot time. Hunters that desire reservations for the Blue Goose Unit should mark San Luis Unit on the reservation application card.

**Kesterson Unit:** All waterfowl hunting at the Kesterson Unit is accomplished from designated blind sites. There are a total of 17 three-person and 15 two-person blinds. One 3-person blind will be reserved for the mobility impaired; if this blind is still unassigned by 2 pm it may be made available to able-bodied hunters. Reservation cards are numbered and will be called in numerical order starting 2.5 hours prior to shoot time. All reservations must be presented 1.5 hours before shoot time. The choice of blinds will be on a first-come, first-served basis.

Only ducks, geese, coots, and moorhens may be hunted. The Kesterson Unit is closed to snipe, dove, and rabbit hunting. Pheasant hunting will be allowed only during the first two days of the pheasant season at a free-roam pheasant hunting area and in the waterfowl blind area only on the first Monday of the pheasant season. Permits to hunt pheasants will be issued at the Kesterson checking station at 7:00 a.m. Order of entry will be determined by lottery.

No telephone, food, or drinking water is available. Chemical toilets are available at the check station and hunting parking lots. Boats are not allowed.

**Freitas Unit:** Access to this unit is by boat only with launching points at either Salt Slough at Highway 165 to go up or down stream, or the San Joaquin River at Highway 140 to travel up the river. Maximum boat speed is limited to 5 mph; air thrust and inboard water thrust boats are prohibited. Hunting may be accomplished from boat or land within the area that is posted open to hunting.

The Freitas Unit will be open, beginning at 2:00 a.m. everyday, throughout the waterfowl season. However, on Wednesdays, Saturdays, and Sundays of the waterfowl season, Type A permits will be required from either the Kesterson NWR or Salt Slough Unit check stations, depending on where you wish to launch your boat. Hunters desiring to launch at Highway 140 will obtain a Freitas Boat North permit from the Kesterson Unit check station; those who wish to launch from the parking lot on the east side of Highway 165 at Salt Slough will obtain a Freitas Boat South permit from the Salt Slough Unit check station on Wolfson Road. Reservations are available for both of these locations. Permits for reservation holders will be issued starting at 6:00 p.m. the evening before each shoot day, until 3:00 a.m. Hunters without reservations may register in person at the checking station between 6:00 p.m. and 9:00 p.m. the evening before each hunt day for a lottery drawing to be held shortly after 9:00 p.m., to establish

the order of issuance of permits to fill vacancies after reservation holders on the morning of the hunt.

North Freitas launch area can be challenging if you are not familiar with the area. Please scout the area prior to launching. Water levels vary greatly on both the San Joaquin River and Salt Slough causing many underwater hazards to exist. People unfamiliar with these waterways should not attempt to negotiate them in the dark.

Please note that as a result of survey work conducted at the San Luis NWR Freitas Unit and the Great Valley Grassland State Park, the boundary of the Freitas Unit has shifted southward in some areas. As a result of this survey, shifts of the boundary have been re-posted with U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service boundary signs. Please note the new location of the boundary. A copy of the map will be posted in the Kesterson and Salt Slough hunter check stations.

Persons arriving after the 9:00 p.m. lottery registration deadline will be added to the list on a first-come, first-served basis. A total of 15 reservations will be issued for each site with a maximum of 15 boats allowed from each of the two launch sites. Refills will be permitted after 11:00 a.m.

On Mondays, Tuesdays, Thursday, and Fridays during the waterfowl hunting season, no permits will be needed and there will not be any fees. Launching will be available from the parking lot on the east side of Highway 165 and from Highway 140.

It should be noted that this area is closed to all entry prior to the opening of waterfowl season. Only ducks, geese, coots, and moorhens may be hunted.

## **MERCED NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE**

All hunting is accomplished from blinds or fixed locations at the Merced NWR. Shoot days are Saturdays and Wednesdays only; shoot time stops at 12:00 noon. Only ducks, geese, coots, and moorhens may be hunted.

Permits will be issued to reservation holders starting two hours before shooting time. Reservations must be presented at the checking station by 1½ hours before shooting time. **Hunters without reservations may register in person at the Los Banos Wildlife Area checking station between 6:00 p.m. and 9:00 p.m. the evening before each hunt day for a lottery drawing to be held shortly after 9:00 p.m., to establish the order of issuance of permits to fill vacancies after reservation holders on the morning of the hunt.** Persons arriving after the 9:00 p.m. lottery registration deadline will be added to the list on a first-come, first-served basis. Each potential hunter, including juniors, must register in person to participate in the lottery. A hunting

partner does not have to be present for the registration, nor be a lottery participant. The Merced NWR check station parking lot has undergone improvements with the installation of fencing to enclose the interior of the parking lot. The new fencing will allow the gate on Sandy Mush Road to be opened the evening prior to the hunt day.

One mobility-impaired accessible blind is available. If this blind is not taken by a mobility-impaired hunter and partner, it will remain vacant. The two goose blinds will open the 3rd Saturday in November.

**Please note that at the Merced NWR, hunters are limited to 25 shells per day.** Hunters may not return to their vehicle for additional ammunition. Boats are not allowed. No telephone, food, or drinking water is available. A chemical toilet is available at the check station and hunting parking lots.

Hunters should be aware that Sandy Mush Road west of the Merced NWR check station is closed indefinitely. From Los Banos, hunters will need to approach the Merced NWR check station by taking Highway 152 east to Highway 59. Travel north on Highway 59 approximately 8 miles to Sandy Mush Road. Head west on Sandy Mush Road approximately 8 miles to the check station.

#### **KERN NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE**

Hunter capacity at the Kern NWR is dependent on the availability of habitat and will increase throughout the season as additional habitat is flooded. The hunter quota for opening day will be approximately 80 hunters. Please note that this area is not in the "Balance of the State" regulation area. Kern NWR is in the "Southern San Joaquin Valley" zone. Hunt days are Wednesdays and Saturdays only. Waterfowl, coots and moorhens may be hunted during

the waterfowl season. Steel or other approved non-toxic shot is required for all hunting. Snipe, dove and rabbit hunting are not allowed.

In addition to four free-roam areas there are spaced blinds available. Up to three ADA accessible blinds will also be available. At least one ADA blind will be available opening day to any disabled reservation holder. In the event that the ADA accessible blinds are not requested by a disabled reservation holder, they will be made available to standby disabled hunters in a drawing held two hours prior to shoot time on the morning of the hunt. All persons wishing to hunt in an ADA accessible blind must present proper documentation to the check station staff.

Reservations are available for the waterfowl season and must be presented at the checking station by 1 ½ hours before waterfowl shoot time. The checking station will open 2 ½ hours prior to shoot time. Non-reserved entry permits are issued at the check station on each hunt day 2 hours prior to shoot time. Order of issue will be determined by a drawing held 2 hours prior to shoot time on the morning of the hunt. The area will refill until 1:00 p.m.

#### **AREA RESERVOIRS OPEN FOR WATERFOWL HUNTING**

Waterfowl hunting is allowed daily during the hunting season on San Luis Reservoir, O'Neill Forebay, and Los Banos Creek Detention Dam. Boats are highly recommended; hunters with scull boats have enjoyed good success. Call California Department of Parks and Recreation at (209) 826-1196 for specific areas open for hunting, maps, and special rules and regulations.



**WATERFOWL AND PHEASANT HUNTING RESULTS SUMMARY  
SAN JOAQUIN VALLEY PUBLIC HUNTING AREAS  
INCLUDING JUNIOR HUNTS**

\*pheasants released on area

<b>Season</b>	<b>Area</b>	<b>Total Hunters</b>	<b>Total Ducks</b>	<b>Avg Ducks</b>	<b>Total Geese</b>	<b>Total Waterfowl</b>	<b>Average Waterfowl</b>	<b>Total Pheasants</b>
<b>2005-2006</b>	LOS BANOS WLA	4799	7601	1.70	163	7803	1.75	226*
	VOLTA WLA	1693	2939	1.78	2	3224	1.96	36
	NORTH GRASSLAND WLA							
	SALT SLOUGH UNIT	1793	2757	1.75	11	2807	1.78	105
	GADWALL UNIT	1122	3512	3.18	7	3526	3.19	13
	CHINA ISLAND UNIT	1300	1708	1.64	8	1739	1.67	136*
	MENDOTA WLA	11062	24855	2.35	258	25366	2.40	350*
	SAN LUIS NWR							
	SAN LUIS/BLUE GOOSE UNITS	3858	9202	2.40	27	9257	2.42	51
	S FREITAS UNIT	782	1798	2.30	21	1821	2.33	
	WEST BEAR CREEK UNIT	954	1936	2.03	8	1950	2.04	
	N FREITAS UNIT	761	1897	2.49	6	1903	2.50	
	KESTERSON UNIT	2501	4484	1.82	20	4534	1.84	15
	MERCED NWR	738	1789	2.42	80	1871	2.54	
	KERN NWR	3527	10937	3.10	7	10990	3.12	
	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>34890</b>	<b>75415</b>		<b>618</b>	<b>76791</b>		<b>932</b>
<b>2004-2005</b>	LOS BANOS WLA	4727	7698	1.74	110	7847	1.66	140*
	VOLTA WLA	1988	3498	1.77	3	3637	1.83	11
	NORTH GRASSLAND WLA							
	SALT SLOUGH UNIT	1931	3011	1.67	11	3024	1.57	38
	GADWALL UNIT	978	2920	2.99	11	2940	3.01	6
	CHINA ISLAND UNIT	1260	2315	2.02	31	2508	1.99	72*
	MENDOTA WLA	11112	23785	2.21	478	24370	2.27	211*
	SAN LUIS NWR							
	SAN LUIS/BLUE GOOSE UNITS	4201	10385	2.49	41	10434	2.48	21
	S FREITAS UNIT	665	1582	2.38	30	1614	2.43	
	WEST BEAR CREEK UNIT	1049	2559	2.44	26	2586	2.47	
	N FREITAS UNIT	809	2326	2.88	13	2339	2.89	
	KESTERSON UNIT	2586	5095	2.01	43	5143	1.99	30
	MERCED NWR	753	1981	2.63	61	2045	2.72	
	KERN NWR	3415	10204	2.99	8	10236	3.00	
	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>35474</b>	<b>77359</b>		<b>866</b>	<b>78723</b>		<b>529</b>
<b>2003-2004</b>	LOS BANOS WLA	4552	6907	1.52	115	7022	1.54	71
	VOLTA WLA	1708	2762	1.62	19	2781	1.63	11
	NORTH GRASSLAND WLA							
	SALT SLOUGH UNIT	1854	2626	1.42	6	2632	1.42	103
	GADWALL UNIT	798	1843	2.31	12	1855	2.32	6
	CHINA ISLAND UNIT	1129	1112	0.98	26	1138	1.01	204*
	MENDOTA WLA	11037	19548	1.77	429	19977	1.81	166
	SAN LUIS NWR							
	SAN LUIS/BLUE GOOSE UNITS	4502	8683	1.93	55	8738	1.94	58
	S FREITAS UNIT	829	1461	1.76	18	1479	1.78	
	WEST BEAR CREEK UNIT	847	1467	1.73	14	1481	1.75	
	N FREITAS UNIT	723	1478	2.04	6	1484	2.05	
	KESTERSON UNIT	2626	3331	1.27	36	3367	1.28	1
	MERCED NWR	850	2188	2.57	141	2329	2.74	
	KERN NWR	2963	8113	2.74	17	8166	2.76	
	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>34418</b>	<b>61519</b>		<b>894</b>	<b>62449</b>		<b>620</b>

## **MANAGERS CORNER**

While this article is being written in mid-July, Department of Fish and Game staff are preparing fall flooding schedules for seasonal wetlands; fall is approaching rapidly! There are some new challenges and projects the staff at the wildlife areas would like to share with readers. This September issue is a good time to update folks on what has been happening during the spring and summer months on the public areas in the San Joaquin Valley.

Wildlife responded favorably once again to the wet winter and spring in the San Joaquin Valley this year. The ample water supplies available for the spring and summer months resulted in excellent habitat conditions and subsequent production for most wildlife species. Overall, waterfowl production for the Pacific flyway looks good enough for another liberal waterfowl season which will be set by the time this issue of Wing Beat News is published. As usual, weather is the key when hunting waterfowl especially mid to late season, but with the right weather we could see yet another good waterfowl season in the San Joaquin Valley. Upland species also seemed to respond well to the wet spring with quail and chukar brood counts showing increases in the foothills. Indicators for pheasant production have shown excellent numbers of broods and survival throughout all the valley floor wildlife areas. The one exception for good pheasant production might be the China Island Unit of North Grasslands WA since much of this unit was under water all spring due to high flows in the San Joaquin River.

There are many habitat restoration and infrastructure repairs taking place this summer due to funding support by NAWCA, DU, and CWA, or Wildlife Conservation Board. The work season was a bit delayed due to the wet conditions, but many projects were completed this year along with the usual maintenance, water control structure replacement and habitat rehabilitation. At Los Banos WA, a wetland restoration project is being completed in fields 1 thru 6 out of parking lot 1, the completion of this project will allow staff to better manage the wetlands in this vicinity as well as create the capability to increase the riparian habitat within these units. In addition, the levee around Ruth Lake was rebuilt and swale/levee restoration projects were completed in fields 10, 17b, 19a, 25 and 47. Hunters should be aware that many of these field units where projects occurred will be muddy and will not have had a chance to grow much waterfowl food. Hunters should scout ahead of time if they hunt in these locations and keep in mind that the habitat will be much improved in future years. Early this spring at Volta WA, the entire underground pipeline system failed. This is the main artery that carries water from the Volta pump station to interior distribution ditches. Thanks to Ducks Unlimited and the Wildlife Conservation Board the pipeline system is being replaced in time to flood the area this fall. On the Salt Slough unit of North Grasslands WA, a riparian restoration project was completed in field 23a and irrigation pipelines are about to be installed in fields 20, 23 and 45. The last two wet years have also made ideal growing conditions for non desirable plants such as joint grass and cocklebur in many of the seasonal wetland units managed for watergrass. As a result many of these units on Los Banos, Salt Slough and China Island were rehabilitated (disced, fallowed for a time and then irrigated to germinate a new crop of water grass).

Last year at this time we summarized some of the challenges that face the wetland areas of the San Joaquin Valley as a whole, including mosquito abatement, water supplies, wetland drainage and urban encroachment. All of these are still viable challenges being dealt with by Wildlife Area staff. We were notified in early July that mosquitoes carrying the West Nile Virus were found on and in the vicinity of the China Island Unit of North Grasslands Wildlife Area. Please be sure to apply insect repellent any time you're in or near wetland areas. Mosquito abatement continues to be a management challenge for wildlife area staff; we are continuing to work with the local mosquito abatement districts and other wetland managers to develop and implement best management practices that minimize mosquito production in managed wetlands. The new kid on the block in the way of challenges is High Pathogenic H5N1 Avian Influenza. Although High Pathogenic H5N1 Avian Influenza has not been found in North America, the Department of Fish and Game has set up an early detection monitoring program which will include taking samples from harvested ducks at the hunter check stations this fall and winter. Hunters are urged to assist us with our efforts for early detection, by making your birds available to sampling. For more information on High Pathogenic H5N1 Avian Influenza please visit the following website [www.dfg.ca.gov/avianflu/](http://www.dfg.ca.gov/avianflu/).

Last year's waterfowl and upland game seasons in the San Joaquin Valley turned out to be pretty good. However, we are continuing to see a reduction in the number of junior hunters using the public hunting areas. We encourage all of you to bring a junior hunting anytime you can; as they are the future of the sport of hunting. In this issue you will find applications and information on many Junior and Family Pheasant hunts held at various locations in the San Joaquin

Valley. Please take the time to look at some of these great opportunities and apply with or for a junior hunter. Also, a disappointing note, is the lack of participation on the junior waterfowl hunting days which occurs the weekend after the general waterfowl season closes. Every public waterfowl hunting area in the San Joaquin Valley is open to hunting on this Saturday and most are open on Sunday as well. The hunting is usually quite good with a 2.5 to 4 bird average quite common on most areas. However, turn out is very light, especially on Sunday. We know there some big football games this time of year, but let someone record the football game and spend the day in the marsh with a junior hunter, imagine hunting a public area with only five to ten other hunters on the whole area! These light hunter densities are quite common on the junior hunt weekend so take advantage of this opportunity and bring a junior out hunting.

As a closing note, the Department lands program continues to operate at reduced staffing level caused by budget reductions three years ago. In an effort to maintain programs, we would like to remind those of you who hunt or use the public hunting areas to please read and abide by the Expected Hunter Behavior on Public Hunting Areas posted at check stations and printed in the back of the regulation booklet. Please pick up all your trash and litter including shot shell empties and our pet peeve empty water bottles (how much does an empty water bottle weigh after all). Have an enjoyable and safe hunting season and we can't say this enough: bring a kid hunting.

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### **SPECIAL WATERFOWL HUNT DAYS FOR YOUNG HUNTERS**

Take a young person hunting and you will not only introduce a person to the wonders of the outdoors, but you will likely see it in a different light as well.

The dates for the special youth waterfowl hunt days have not been set; however, they will most likely occur in late-January or early-February. The youth must be a licensed hunter, 15 years old or younger, and be accompanied in the field by an adult 18 years of age or older. The adult may not shoot.

At this time the exact locations of areas participating in this special hunt day have not been announced, but generally, all the areas listed and discussed here are open to youth hunters. Information in the form of press releases, posters, and flyers will be available from DFG offices and hunter check stations in time to apply for reservations once the date(s) have been set for the special youth waterfowl hunt.

### **WATERFOWL BLINDS AVAILABLE FOR MOBILITY RESTRICTED HUNTERS**

Many state and federal hunting areas have available Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) accessible hunting blinds to provide waterfowl hunting opportunities for hunters with disabilities. These blinds are constructed to be wheelchair accessible and are located close to parking areas.

Many State wildlife areas have ADA accessible hunting blinds: Gray Lodge, Grizzly Island, Imperial, Mendota, Los Banos, North Grasslands, San Jacinto, Upper Butte Basin, and Yolo Bypass Wildlife Areas. National wildlife refuges with barrier free blinds include Sacramento,

Delevan, Merced, Sonny Bono-Salton Sea, and San Luis National Wildlife Refuges.

The ADA accessible blinds for mobility impaired hunters are available to any waterfowl hunter who has been issued a Department of Motor Vehicles disabled placard **identification card**, disabled veteran license plate, or a mobility impaired disabled person's motor vehicle hunting license. A disabled parking placard may not be substituted for the identification card bearing the hunter's name.

Several wildlife areas in the Central San Joaquin Valley have specially designed blinds for hunters who are mobility restricted or impaired. The Mendota WLA has seven blinds for mobility impaired hunters. Originally constructed by Fresno area Boy Scouts as part of their Eagle Scout projects, these blinds allow the hunter to be seated (either in a wheelchair or bring your own stool) with cover around the blind. Paths are graveled from the parking lot to the blind sites and average about 200 yards. Vehicles may be driven to the blind to drop off mobility impaired hunters; however, vehicles must then be parked in the designated parking area. ADA reservation holders enter through the reservation line in a first come first served system. Disabled hunters with a regular reservation or no reservation wishing to hunt an ADA blind will enter through the appropriate line but will then have to wait until 1 hour before shoot time to be issued a blind site.

At Merced NWR, one mobility impaired hunting blind is available. A vehicle can be driven close to the blind to unload equipment, and then must park in the nearby designated parking area. The platform blind allows the hunter to be seated (either in a wheelchair or use the seating provided) with cover around the blind.

The Salt Slough Unit of the North Grasslands WLA has one ADA accessible blind in the main channel of field 50.

A 200 yard concrete walkway leading from a designated parking area leads to the 5'x8' blind. It has a metal frame and is camouflaged with grass, cattails and tules. The blind is wheelchair accessible and seats are provided.

The Gadwall Unit of the North Grasslands WLA has one ADA accessible blind for hunters with disabilities located in Field 6. A concrete walkway leads to the wooden platform blind. The blind is surrounded by water and is camouflaged with netting. Seats are provided at this blind.

The Los Banos WLA has two ADA accessible blinds. Blind 17, located in field 60, is a platform blind approximately 300 yards northeast of parking lot 6. The path from the parking area leading to the blind is constructed of compacted gravel. The bottom of the platform blind is a metal frame with plywood floor. The blind is located over water. Blind 9H, which has a plywood base platform, has been re-furbished and fitted with camouflage netting to hide the entrance. This blind is located approximately 300 yards from parking lot 8 and the path is compacted gravel. It is just off the levee and has water on three sides.

The Kesterson Unit of the San Luis NWR has an ADA accessible blind located at Blind 26. The three-man blind can be accessed by traveling 100 yards on a gravel path leading from the parking spot to the blind. The blind is constructed of a concrete pad and a steel frame with sliding front and top allowing space for shooting. The blind is located on a cattail lined channel with small potholes on both sides of the channel. Water in the channel tends to be between thigh and navel deep in places.

#### **HUNT AREA VOLUNTEER CLEAN-UP DAYS SCHEDULED AT KESTERSON AND MERCED NWRs**

The 2006-07 waterfowl season is quickly approaching. The San Luis NWR staff has scheduled the annual volunteer hunting blind clean-up days for September 16 (Merced NWR) and September 23 (Kesterson Unit of San Luis NWR). Volunteers have done an excellent job in the past with getting the blinds ready for the upcoming season. Employees will guide teams of volunteers to blinds that are in need of pre-season cleaning and maintenance. This is a great opportunity to get outdoors, work hard (but not too hard) and get to know the refuges before the hunting season. There will be lots of time for questions and answers and viewing wildlife.

What to bring...

Bring your hip boots and/or chest waders (some fields might be partially flooded), gloves, water, snack, insect repellent, sun screen, and gas-powered weed eater (if possible). We will provide lunch, hand tools, premixed two-cycle gasoline and plenty of blinds to clean. There will be a tour of the refuges after lunch on each day. On

Saturday, September 16, we will be meeting at the Merced NWR's hunter parking lot located on the south-side of Sandy Mush Road, approximately 8 miles west of Hwy 59 at 7:30 am. On Saturday, September 23, we will be meeting at the Kesterson check station parking lot, 3 miles east of Gustine on Highway 140, at 7:30 am. Please call Jack Sparks at (209) 826-3508 for additional information and to RSVP. We hope to see you there!

#### **DRAWINGS FOR SAN JOAQUIN VALLEY STATE WILDLIFE AREA SEASON RV PARKING SPACES**

The drawings for season-long RV parking spaces at State wildlife areas in the San Joaquin Valley will be held on Wednesday, September 20, at 9:00a.m. Shortly after the drawing, the drawn RV parking spaces will be made available online from a link off of Wingbeat's main webpage. Please make sure you check the approval box to see your RV license number online. The application deadline is September 18, 2006, at 4:00 p.m. Applications and instructions are provided in the July issue of Wingbeat News. Additional information for the recreational vehicle parking draws can be obtained by calling the Mendota WLA at (559) 655-4645 or the Los Banos WLA at (209) 826-0463.

#### **HUNTING OPPORTUNITIES AVAILABLE ON THREE ECOLOGICAL RESERVES IN FRESNO AND TULARE COUNTIES**

The Department of Fish and Game will open three ecological reserves (ERs) for upland game and limited waterfowl hunting this year. These ERs were obtained by the Department to protect sensitive habitat and threatened or endangered species; with the exception of Pleasant Valley ER, there are generally no habitat improvements or plantings for game species. Upland game and some waterfowl are sometimes found on the areas, and hunting for these species will not affect the primary ER conservation goals. Only shotgun hunting for upland game and waterfowl is permitted. There is no charge to use the ERs. Camping, open fires, target practice or vehicle access is prohibited.

Kaweah River Ecological Reserve is located on South Fork drive about 8.8 miles east of Three Rivers, in Tulare County. This 103-acre ER is the home to the Kaweah brodiaea, an endangered native plant. The beautiful flowers of this plant can be seen in late April or early May, but it is dormant during the fall hunting season. There are limited populations of California quail, rabbits and mourning dove. Terrain is steep on this ER.

Stone Corral Ecological Reserve is also located in Tulare County and was acquired primarily for protection of vernal pool habitat. This ER has several parcels that are accessible to the public. Mourning dove and a limited pheasant population inhabit this ER. Waterfowl

can also be found during the late fall and early winter. Waterfowl hunting could be challenging due to the flat, open terrain.

In Fresno County, just east of Coalinga, is the Pleasant Valley Ecological Reserve. This ER was purchased to protect valley saltbush habitat. San Joaquin kit fox and blunt-nosed leopard lizard may also benefit from this ecological reserve. It provides good dove habitat, and doves are plentiful during some years. There are several guzzlers on the ER that receive use by small populations of California quail, but this is primarily a dove hunting destination. About 480 acres of this ER south of Phelps Avenue have been opened to hunting.

If these ERs are located near you, they may be worth investigating for a hunting trip. Remember to leave the area as you found it and to be aware that you are using habitat that is crucial for some of California's more sensitive species. For information on these areas, call our Regional Office in Fresno at (559) 243-4005, extension 132 or 133, or call (559) 332-2021.

#### **LESSER KNOWN SAN JOAQUIN VALLEY/SOUTHERN SIERRA REGION WILDLIFE AREAS OPEN FOR PUBLIC USE**

There are several Type C wildlife areas in Merced and Fresno counties that are available for public use. The Type C designation indicates that there is no charge to enter the area. All members of the public who enter are required to sign in at the self-registration booth (if available).

San Luis Reservoir WLA (900 acres), Lower Cottonwood Creek WLA (2,000 acres) and Upper Cottonwood Creek WLA (4,000 acres) offer opportunities for hunters who like to pursue a wide range of species. Both of these coastal mountain range wildlife areas are open to foot traffic only. Huntible species include pig, deer, turkey, dove, quail, and rabbit during the legal seasons. Both areas are open to wildlife viewing year round. The spring is a great time to view wildflowers.

Little Panoche Reservoir WLA (780 acres) is open for fishing and hunting the game species that are in season. A small number of waterfowl are taken from the reservoir each year. DFG has banded a number of chukar in the Panoche Hills, as part of a pilot project. Hunters harvesting any banded birds are strongly encouraged to call the phone number on the leg band, and report when and where the birds were harvested. Your help is important to us and this project. The area is open for wildlife viewing year round.

In addition to being an excellent place for birdwatching, the O'Neill Forebay WLA (700 acres) is open to dove, waterfowl, quail, rabbit, and pheasant hunting during the legal seasons. The area will be closed to general public

use on November 18 and December 2, 2006, for the annual junior pheasant hunt program. Special quota restrictions apply to give priority to the junior hunters. Please see the regulations on state and federal areas for a complete description for both the specified junior pheasant hunt days and the Sundays following the junior pheasant hunts. A lottery may be applied to grant entry to hunters on those days.

West Hilmar WLA (340 acres) is located on the east side of the San Joaquin River, approximately four miles downstream from Hills Ferry Road. It is accessible by boat only. The area is primarily oak grassland, and has many large oak trees. The area is open to hunting quail, doves, pheasants, rabbits, and waterfowl during the appropriate seasons. Contact the Los Banos Wildlife Area Complex office for detailed information about how to access the West Hilmar WLA.

For additional information, contact the Los Banos Wildlife Area Complex office at (209) 826-0463.

#### **ONLINE ACCESS FOR HUNTING NEEDS REGULATIONS, MAPS, APPLICATIONS, ETC.**

Department of Fish and Game has made available many items for hunters online. Below is a brief list of how to locate some of the commonly asked items. All directions will be from the main DFG webpage of <http://www.dfg.ca.gov>.

Note: Many documents within the DFG website are in Portable Document File (.pdf) format. Therefore, you must have Adobe Reader installed and updated on your computer to read the file. Adobe Reader is available free online at <http://www.adobe.com/products/adobe/readermain.html>. Please update your Adobe Reader version before trying to open a file within the DFG website. Many times this is the problem for files being unable to be opened on your computer.

#### **General Information on Hunting in the San Joaquin Valley**

Select *Game Management* from the left-hand side of the menu on the main page. The page will completely refresh, select *Upland Game* from the center menu. It should be the second down from the top of the page. The page will refresh again and select the first link called *Game Bird Heritage Special Hunts Program*. Scroll down the page after it has refreshed to the Northern California Hunts and select *Hunting in the San Joaquin Valley*. This site has many links to some of the information below and other useful information regarding hunting within this area.

#### **Regulations**

Select *Regulations* from the left-hand side of the menu on the main page. Once the page has refreshed, the

center portion should have links to general, hunting and fishing regulations. Each area has been broken down further to assist in locating the proper regulations for the activity you are interested in.

### **Maps**

Direct links to maps have been made available online on the Wing Beats webpage. Follow the instructions below to then select the necessary map(s). Regional maps with directions to hunting locations and current plot/food maps of the local wildlife areas if they have been planted are provided on the website. These maps are the same as the ones found in the back portions of the published issues. These maps are in .pdf format.

### **Region 4 Wing Beats**

Select *Publications* from the left-hand side of the menu on the main page. The page will completely refresh, and

then select *San Joaquin Valley & Southern Sierra* link from the far right hand menu under Regional. Once selected and refreshed, select the issue you need. These issues are in .pdf format and are an exact replica of the mailing issue.

### **Game Bird Heritage Program**

Select *Game Management* from the left-hand side of the menu on the main page. The page will completely refresh, select *Upland Game* from the center menu. It should be the second down from the top of the page. The page will refresh again and select the first link called *Game Bird Heritage Special Hunts Program* from the center menu. Once selected and refreshed, navigate through the section for the appropriate press release, information and application.

### **IMPORTANT THINGS TO REMEMBER**

All blinds at the Los Banos WLA and Mud Slough Unit have a maximum capacity of two persons.

ADA accessible blinds at San Joaquin Valley Type A areas will be held open for disabled hunters until 2:00 p.m.

A lottery system for non-reservation hunters applies to all Type A hunting areas in the Grasslands vicinity.

All members of a hunting party entering on the same reservation or lottery number must hunt the same hunt assignment (eg. same blind, same parking lot, same boat).

When registering for the first-come, first-served line, all hunters must designate whether they will be hunting as a party or solo.

No person shall possess or use alcohol while in the field hunting or engaged in other authorized recreational activities on any State wildlife area or Federal wildlife refuge. "In the field" is defined as all areas except checking stations and designated parking areas. It is a violation of the Fish and Game Code to be intoxicated while hunting.

Los Banos WLA check station will hold lottery registration and drawing for Los Banos WLA, Volta WLA, and Merced NWR. Hunters may register for the lottery for only one of the three hunt areas being drawn at the Los Banos WLA check station.

Post-lottery arrivals at the Volta WLA will not sign up for a first-come, first-served list; instead, persons arriving after the 9:00 p.m. lottery will be issued permits in the order they are parked in the Volta WLA checking station parking lot.

Permits and lottery numbers for China Island will be obtained at the Kesterson Unit check station.

There will be no changing of hunt assignments or new entry permits allowed after 3:00 p.m. on all hunt areas.

September 16 – Volunteer Clean-up Day at Merced NWR

September 24 – Volunteer Clean-up Day at Kesterson NWR

September 30 – Volunteer Work Day at Mendota WLA

November 11 – Pheasant Hunting Season Opens

November 18 and December 2 – Junior Pheasant Hunts at the O'Neill Forebay Wildlife Area

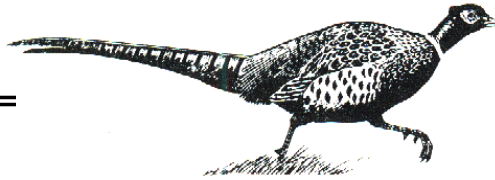
The following information was copied from the Department of Fish and Game's Game Bird Heritage Program press releases.



## FISH AND GAME NEWS RELEASE

**(559) 243-4005**  
Extension 133

THE RESOURCES AGENCY  
DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME  
1234 EAST SHAW AVENUE  
FRESNO, CALIFORNIA 93710



**W. E. Loudermilk,**  
Regional Manager

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
July 7, 2006

### **SPECIAL HUNTS FOR PERSONS DEPENDENT UPON WHEELCHAIR, SUCCESS LAKE, FAMILY, WOMEN, AND JUNIOR PHEASANT HUNT AND JUNIOR QUAIL HUNT**

*This and additional information can be found by visiting the Department's web page at  
<http://www.dfg.ca.gov>.*

#### **Pheasant Hunt for Persons Dependent upon a Wheelchair**

A special pheasant hunt for persons dependent upon a wheelchair is being offered by the Department of Fish and Game through its Game Bird Heritage Program. Providing hunter opportunity and hunter access is a major goal of the Game Bird Heritage Program. This hunt is made possible through the purchase of an Upland Game Bird Stamp by hunters and is supported by the Madera County fish and game propagation committee and Board of Supervisors by purchasing pheasants through the disbursement of fine monies collected from fish and game violators.

The hunt will be held on November 19, 2006, from 11:00 a.m. until sunset near the town of Chowchilla on private property. Male ring-necked pheasants will be released prior to the hunt. This hunt can accommodate 25 hunters who are dependent upon a wheelchair. The hunt will take place in a flat alfalfa field and trained pointing dogs will be used to locate the birds for the hunter. Volunteers will also be on hand to push the wheelchair hunters through the field if desired.

Successful applicants and their hunting guest (except junior license holders) must pay a \$14.75 entry fee. **Do not** send the \$14.75 fee with your application; it will be collected when you check in at the hunt. An Upland Game Bird Stamp is required of all hunters, except junior license holders.

Hunters under 18 years of age must be accompanied by an adult (18 years of age or older).

#### **How To Apply**

Hunters will be selected by a random computerized drawing and allowed to bring one hunting guest who is also dependent upon a wheelchair. When applying for the hunt, provide the following information for yourself and your guest: ① name, ② address, ③ daytime and evening telephone numbers, and ④ 2006-2007 hunting license number. Hunters may apply only **once**, either as an applicant or as a guest. Submitting multiple applications will disqualify you from the drawing. Applications must be mailed or returned to:

Game Bird Heritage Program  
Pheasant Hunt for Persons Dependent upon a  
Wheelchair  
1234 East Shaw Avenue  
Fresno, California 93710

Applications must be received by October 27, 2006, at 5:00 p.m. to be eligible for the drawing. **Only successful applicants will be notified** with instructions and a map to the hunt area. It is your responsibility to notify your guest hunter of being successful in the drawing. For additional information or an application, contact the Department of Fish and Game, Game Bird Heritage Program at (559) 243-4005, extension 133.

## Success Lake Pheasant Hunt

### PLEASE NOTE, OF SOME MAJOR CHANGES IN 2006.

The Department of Fish and Game through its Game Bird Heritage Program, Southern Tulare County Sportsman Association and U. S. Army Corps of Engineers are offering free public pheasant hunting near Springville. Providing hunter opportunity and access is a major goal of the Game Bird Heritage Program. One thousand male ring-necked pheasants will be released randomly from November 11, 2006, (opening day of pheasant season) through December 22, 2006, on the wildlife area of Success Lake. These birds were purchased by the Game Bird Heritage Program through the purchase of an Upland Game Bird Stamp by hunters and raised from 8-week-old chicks by the Southern Tulare County Sportsman Association. There is no fee or permit required for sportsmen and women to hunt this area. All laws and regulations regarding the taking of pheasants are in effect. An Upland Game Bird Stamp is required for all hunters except junior license holders. **Please note**, on opening day (November 11, 2006), there will be a total capacity of 300 hunters and non-hunting guests allowed on the area at one time. Additional hunters will be allowed on the area as hunters leave throughout the day, not to exceed the 300 capacity at one time. Hunters and guests will be required to wear a fluorescent safety vest on opening day **provided** by the U. S. Army Corps of Engineers. **This area will be closed to all hunting until 8:00 a.m. during pheasant season.** It also will be closed to hunting during the junior pheasant hunt (November 18-19, 2006). In addition, no dove hunting will be allowed on the opening weekend of the late season (November 11-12, 2006) of the late season. This is due to the large number of pheasant hunters, and safety is a major concern.

For additional information, contact the Department of Fish and Game, Game Bird Heritage Program, at (559) 243-4005, extension 133. The Game Bird Heritage Program and the Tulare County Sportsman Association are pleased to offer this special hunt to the public. Please be safe and courteous. Enjoy your hunt.

## Family Pheasant Hunts

Twenty-two San Joaquin Valley family pheasant hunting opportunities are being offered by the Department of Fish and Game through its Game Bird Heritage Program. These hunts are made possible through the purchase of an Upland Game Bird Stamp by hunters. Providing hunter opportunity and hunter access is a major goal of the Game Bird Heritage Program. Up to four family members may apply as a party. When applying for the hunts, you must indicate the family member(s) in your party. See instructions under "How To Apply."

The hunts will be held near the towns of Gustine, Merced, Chowchilla, San Joaquin, Kettleman City, Stevinson, Alpaugh and Bakersfield. All of the hunts are in cooperation with private landowners with the exception of the Merced hunts, which will be held on the City of Merced property, and the Gustine hunts, which will be held on the Department's China Island Wildlife Area. The Madera, Fresno, Tulare and Kern County fish and game propagation committees and Board of Supervisors are also supporting the hunts by purchasing pheasants through the disbursement of fine monies collected from fish and game violators. Most of the hunts are also supported by local sportsmen's organizations. These clubs include Merced Fish and Game Club, Inc. (Merced), Fresno County Sportsmen's Club (San Joaquin), Avenal Gun Club (Kettleman City) and Exeter Sportsmen's Association (Alpaugh). Two hunts are scheduled per day, from 8:00 a.m. to noon and from 1:00 p.m. to sunset. Male ring-necked pheasants will be released prior to each hunt.

Successful applicants and their guest(s) (except junior license holders) must pay a \$14.75 entry fee (waived at the Gustine hunt in lieu of a two-day or annual hunting area pass). **Do not** send the \$14.75 fee with your application, it will be collected when you check in at the hunt. An Upland Game Bird Stamp is required of all hunters, **except** junior license holders. Hunters under 18 years of age must be accompanied by an adult (18 years of age or older).



## How To Apply

Hunters will be selected by a random computerized drawing. Applications may include up to four family members applying as a party. When applying for the hunts, provide the following information for **yourself and any other family hunter(s)**: ① name, ② address, ③ daytime and evening telephone numbers, ④ 2006-2007 hunting license number and ⑤ hunt number, location (e.g. [N] Merced), date and hunt in order of preference. Hunters may apply only **once** for each hunt, either as an applicant or as a guest. Submitting multiple applications will disqualify you from the drawing.

Hunters will be selected for **only one** hunt. This is to provide more hunters with the opportunity to participate in these special hunts. **Please make your selections carefully.** Changes **cannot** be made after the drawing. Applications must be mailed or returned to:

Game Bird Heritage Family Pheasant Hunts  
1234 East Shaw Avenue  
Fresno, California 93710

Applications must be received by Friday, October 27, 2006, at 5:00 p.m. to be eligible for the drawing. **Only successful applicants will be notified** with instructions and a map to the hunt area. It is your responsibility to notify other family member(s) of being successful in the drawing. For additional information on any of the hunts or for an application, contact the Department of Fish and Game, Game Bird Heritage Program at (559) 243-4005, extension 133. The hunt numbers, locations, dates and hunt periods are as follows. List in order of preference on your application.

Hunt Letter	Location	Date and Hunt Period	Quota
A	Alpaugh	Saturday, November 18, morning	50
B	Alpaugh	Saturday, November 18, afternoon	50
C	Bakersfield	Saturday, November 18, morning	50
D	Bakersfield	Saturday, November 18, afternoon	50
E	Gustine	Saturday, November 18, morning	50
F	Gustine	Saturday, November 18, afternoon	50
G	Kettleman City	Saturday, November 18, morning	50
H	Kettleman City	Saturday, November 18, afternoon	50
I	San Joaquin	Saturday, November 18, morning	50
J	San Joaquin	Saturday, November 18, afternoon	50
K	Stevinson	Saturday, December 2, morning	50
L	Stevinson	Saturday, December 2, afternoon	50
M	Merced	Saturday, December 2, morning	25
N	Merced	Saturday, December 2, afternoon	25
O	Merced	Sunday, December 3, morning	25
P	Merced	Sunday, December 3, afternoon	25
Q	Merced	Saturday, December 9, morning	25
R	Merced	Saturday, December 9, afternoon	25
S	Merced	Sunday, December 10, morning	25
T	Merced	Sunday, December 10, afternoon	25
U	Chowchilla	Saturday, December 9, morning	50
V	Chowchilla	Saturday, December 9, afternoon	50

## Women's Pheasant Hunts

Four special women's pheasant hunts are being offered by the Department of Fish and Game through its Game Bird Heritage Program. These hunts are made possible through the purchase of an Upland Game Bird Stamp by hunters. Providing hunting opportunity and hunter access is a major goal of the Game Bird Heritage Program. When applying for the hunts, you must indicate who you would like to bring as a guest hunter. See instructions under "How To Apply."

The hunts will be held near the towns of Gustine and Bakersfield. These hunts will be held on private property and in cooperation with local organizations. These organizations include the Los Banos Soroptimist Club and Los Banos Chapter of Quail Unlimited (Gustine). Two hunts are scheduled per day, from 8:00 a.m. to noon and from 1:00 p.m. to sunset. Male ring-necked pheasants will be released prior to each hunt.

Successful applicants and their guest (except junior license holders) must pay a \$14.75 entry fee. **Do not** send the \$14.75 fee with your application; it will be collected when you check in at the hunt. An Upland Game Bird Stamp is required of all hunters **except** junior license holders. Hunters under 18 years of age must be accompanied by an adult (18 years of age or older).

### How To Apply

Hunters will be selected by a random computerized drawing and allowed to bring one female hunting guest. When applying for the hunts, provide the following information for **yourself and your guest**: ① name, ② address, ③ daytime and evening telephone numbers, ④ 2006-2007 hunting license number, and ⑤ hunt number, location (e.g. [C] Gustine), date and hunt in order of preference. Hunters may apply only **once** for each hunt, either as an applicant or as a guest. Submitting multiple applications will disqualify you from the drawing. Hunters will be selected for **only one** hunt. This is to provide more hunters with the opportunity to participate in these special hunts. Please make your selections carefully. Changes cannot be made after

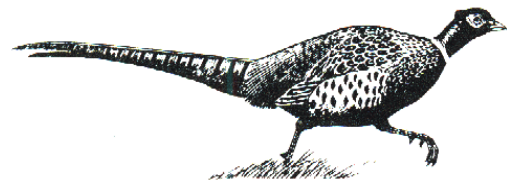
the drawing. Applications must be mailed or returned to:

Game Bird Heritage Women's Pheasant Hunts  
1234 East Shaw Avenue  
Fresno, California 93710

Applications must be received by Friday, October 27, 2006, at 5:00 p.m. to be eligible for the drawing. **Only successful applicants will be notified** with instructions and a map to the hunt area. It is your responsibility to notify your guest hunter of being successful in the drawing. For additional information on any of these hunts or an application, contact the Department of Fish and Game, Game Bird Heritage Program at (559) 243-4005, extension 133.

The hunt numbers, locations, dates and hunt periods are as follows. List in order of preference on your application.

Hunt Number	Location	Date and Hunt Period	Capacity
A	Bakersfield	Saturday, December 2, morning	25
B	Bakersfield	Saturday, December 2, afternoon	25
C	Gustine	Saturday, December 2, morning	25
D	Gustine	Saturday, December 2, afternoon	25



## Junior Pheasant Hunts

Twenty special junior pheasant hunts are being offered to young hunters by the Department of Fish and Game and sportsmen's organizations. Pheasants for these special hunts will be purchased by sportsmen's clubs, with county fish and game propagation monies derived from fish and game violations and National Rifle Association grants, both procured by participating sportsmen's clubs. Providing hunting opportunity and hunter access is a major goal of the Game Bird Heritage Program. All of the hunts are free. Hunters must be signed up or successfully drawn to participate in these hunts. Walk-up hunters will not be admitted.

The hunts will be held near the towns of Los Banos, Mendota, Springville, Lake Isabella and Taft. Four hunts are in cooperation with private landowners, Success Lake hunts are on U.S. Army Corps of Engineers land, Lake Isabella on United States Forest Service land and the O'Neill Forebay and Mendota hunts are located on Department of Fish and Game wildlife areas. All hunts are supported by local sportsmen's organizations. These sportsmen's clubs include Los Banos Sportsmen's Association and Quail Unlimited-Stockton Chapter (O'Neill Forebay Wildlife Area), Fresno County Sportsmen's Club (Mendota Wildlife Area), Southern Tulare County Sportsman Association (Success Lake), Fish and Game Habitat Club (Lake Isabella), and the Taft Sportsmen's Club (Taft). Two hunts are scheduled per day, from 8:00 a.m. to

noon and from 1:00 p.m. to sunset. Male ring-necked pheasants will be released prior to each hunt period.

Junior hunters (Junior license holders) must be accompanied by an adult (18 years of age or older). The adult accompanying the junior hunter cannot hunt or carry a shotgun. An Upland Game Bird Stamp is **not** required of junior license holders.

## How To Apply

Up to four junior hunters may apply as a party. When applying for the hunts, provide the following information for yourself and any other junior hunter(s) in your party: ① name, ② address, ③ daytime and evening telephone numbers, ④ 2006-2007 hunting license number, and ⑤ location (e.g., Taft), date and hunt in order of preference. Hunters may apply only **once** for each hunt, either as an applicant or as a guest. Submitting multiple applications will disqualify you from the drawing. An application is available to apply for the Mendota and O'Neill hunts only. For all other hunts, simply provide the information requested above and mail it to the **name and address of the hunt** you are applying for. Information about each hunt is listed on the next page. **Please note that your applications must be mailed to the proper address. Only successful applicants will be notified** with instructions and a map to the hunt area. It is your responsibility to notify your guest hunter(s) of being successful in the drawing.

### Junior Pheasant Hunts

Location	Date and Hunt Period	Quota	Where to Apply and Deadline
Taft	Saturday, November 11, morning	40	Taft Sportsmen's Club P.O. Box 1245 Taft, CA 93268-1245 (661) 765-2704 (Taft Sportsmen's Club) E-mail: <a href="mailto:tbrown16@dak.rr.com">tbrown16@dak.rr.com</a> <b>APPLY BY OCTOBER 20, 2006, BY 5:00 P.M.</b>
Taft	Saturday, November 11, afternoon	40	
Taft	Sunday, November 12, morning	40	
Taft	Sunday, November 12, afternoon	40	
Lake Isabella	Saturday, November 18, morning	30	Lake Isabella Junior Pheasant Hunt P. O. Box 127 Lake Isabella, CA 93240 (760) 379-3188 or (760) 379-8251 (Fish and Game Habitat Club) E-mail: <a href="mailto:chestero@aol.com">chestero@aol.com</a> <b>APPLY BY OCTOBER 27, 2006, BY 5:00 P.M.</b>
Lake Isabella	Saturday, November 18, afternoon	30	
Lake Isabella	Sunday, November 19, morning	30	
Lake Isabella	Sunday, November 19, afternoon	30	
Mendota	Saturday, November 18, morning	25	Department of Fish and Game Junior Pheasant Hunts 1234 E. Shaw Ave. Fresno, CA 93710 (559) 243-4005, extension 133 <b>APPLY BY OCTOBER 20, 2006, BY 5:00 P.M.</b>
Mendota	Saturday, November 18, afternoon	25	
Mendota	Saturday, December 2, morning	25	
Mendota	Saturday, December 2, afternoon	25	
Success Lake	Saturday, November 18, morning	50	Success Lake Junior Pheasant Hunt P. O. Box 89 Porterville, CA 93258 (559) 562-0982 (So. Tulare Co. Sportsman Assoc.) <b>APPLY BY OCTOBER 27, 2006, BY 5:00 P.M.</b> <a href="http://www.stcsa.com">www.stcsa.com</a> E-mail <a href="mailto:stcsa@sbcglobal.net">stcsa@sbcglobal.net</a> Phone-in applications <b>not</b> accepted.
Success Lake	Saturday, November 18, afternoon	50	
Success Lake	Sunday, November 19, morning	50	
Success Lake	Sunday, November 19, afternoon	50	
O'Neill Forebay	Saturday, November 18, morning	35	Department of Fish and Game Junior Pheasant Hunts 1234 E. Shaw Ave. Fresno, CA 93710 (559) 243-4005, extension 133 <b>APPLY BY OCTOBER 20, 2006, BY 5:00 P.M.</b>
O'Neill Forebay	Saturday, November 18, afternoon	35	
O'Neill Forebay	Saturday, December 2, morning	35	
O'Neill Forebay	Saturday, December 2, afternoon	35	

## 2006 Junior Quail Hunt

A special junior quail hunt is being offered to junior hunters by the Department of Fish and Game through its Game Bird Heritage Program and a private landowner. Providing hunting opportunity and hunter access is a major goal of the Game Bird Heritage Program. This wild bird hunt is not recommended for the novice or inexperienced hunter.

Six junior hunters will be selected for the hunt, which will be held on private property near Springville (River Ridge Ranch) in eastern Tulare County. The hunt is free and will take place on Saturday, October 21, 2006, from one-half hour before sunrise to 1:00 p.m.

Junior hunters (junior license holders) must be accompanied by an adult (18 years of age or older). The adult accompanying the junior hunter cannot hunt or carry a shotgun. An Upland Game Bird Stamp is **not** required for junior license holders.

## How To Apply

Hunters will be selected by a random computerized drawing and allowed to bring one hunting guest who is also a junior hunter. When applying for the hunts, provide the following information for you and your guest: ① name, ② address, ③ daytime and evening telephone numbers, and ④ 2006-2007 hunting license number. Hunters may apply only **once**, as either an applicant or as a guest. Submitting multiple applications will disqualify you from the drawing. Applications must be mailed or returned to:

Game Bird Heritage Junior Quail Hunt  
1234 East Shaw Avenue  
Fresno, California 93710

Applications must be received by Friday, September 29, 2006, at 5:00 p.m. to be eligible for the drawing. **Only successful applicants will be notified** with instructions and a map to the hunt area. For additional information about the hunt or an application, contact the Department of Fish and Game, Game Bird Heritage Program at (559) 243-4005, extension 133.

# Application for San Joaquin Valley and Southern Sierra Region 2006 Pheasant Hunt for Persons Dependent upon a Wheelchair

Please Print Clearly

All areas must be completed (including guest information, if bringing guest)

Incomplete Applications Will Be Rejected

Name

Last

M. I.

First

(Mr., Mrs., Jr, etc.)

Hunting License Number

No.  -

☐ Check here if Lifetime License

Address

Street

City

State

Zip Code

Telephone

Daytime

 -  - 

Extension

Evening

 -  - 


Guest Hunter's Name

Last

M. I.

First

(Mr., Mrs., Jr, etc.)

Hunting License Number

No.  -

☐ Check here if Lifetime License

Address

Street

City

State

Zip Code

Telephone

Daytime

 -  - 

Extension

Evening

 -  - 



Return or mail this application to:

**Game Bird Heritage Pheasant Hunt for Persons Dependent upon a Wheelchair**

**Department of Fish and Game**

**1234 East Shaw Avenue**

**Fresno, California 93710**

or fax:

(559) 243-4022

Application due at Department of Fish and Game on  
**October 27, 2006, at 5:00 p.m.** to be eligible for the drawing.

Additional copies of this application can be found at <http://www.dfg.ca.gov>.



Family Member 2 Name
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First 

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 (Mr., Mrs., Jr, etc.) 

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Hunting License Number

No.       -   ☐ Check here if Lifetime License

Address

Street																			
City										State					Zip Code				

Telephone

Daytime	<table border="1"><tr><td></td><td></td><td></td></tr></table> - <table border="1"><tr><td></td><td></td><td></td></tr></table> - <table border="1"><tr><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td></tr></table>												Extension	<table border="1"><tr><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td></tr></table>				
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Family Member 3 Name
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Last 

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 M. I. 

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First 

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 (Mr., Mrs., Jr, etc.) 

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Hunting License Number

No.       -   ☐ Check here if Lifetime License

Address

Street

City 



 State 



 Zip Code

Telephone

Daytime	Extension
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Evening	
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Return or mail this application to:  
**Game Bird Heritage Family Pheasant Hunts**  
**Department of Fish and Game**  
**1234 East Shaw Avenue**  
**Fresno, California 93710**

or fax:  
(559) 243-4022

Application due at Department of Fish and Game on  
**October 27, 2006, at 5:00 p.m.** to be eligible for the drawing.

Additional copies of this application can be found at <http://www.dfg.ca.gov>.



## W

**All areas must be completed (including guest information, if bringing guest).  
Incomplete Applications Will Be Rejected**

Name	
Last	
First	

Hunting License Number

No.       -   ☐ Check here if Lifetime License

Address

Street																			
City										State					Zip Code				

Telephone

Daytime                      Extension

Evening

Guest Hunter's Name
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[illegible]Hunting License Number

No. 

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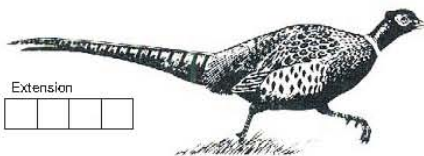
☐ Check here if Lifetime License

Address

Street																			
City										State					Zip Code				

Telephone

Daytime										Extension					
			-				-								
Evening															
			-				-								



Return or mail this application to:  
**Game Bird Heritage Women's Pheasant Hunt**  
 Department of Fish and Game  
 1234 East Shaw Avenue  
 Fresno, California 93710

or fax:  
(559) 243-4022

Additional copies of this application can be found at <http://www.dfg.ca.gov>.

Application due at Department of Fish and Game on  
**October 27, 2006, at 5:00 p.m.** to be eligible for the drawing.

## J

Please Print Clearly

**All areas must be completed (including guest[s] information, if bringing guest[s]).  
Incomplete Applications Will Be Rejected**

Name (Junior Hunter)

Last 

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 M. I. 

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First (Mr., Mrs., Jr., etc.)

Hunting License Number

No.       -   ☐ Check here if Lifetime License

Address

Street	

City	State	Zip Code

Telephone

Daytime                  Extension

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Evening

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Guest 1 Name (Junior Hunter)

[illegible]

First	(Mr., Mrs., Jr., etc.)

Hunting License Number

No.       -   ☐ Check here if Lifetime License

Address

Street	

City												State		Zip Code			

Telephone

Daytime                      Extension

Evening

**Selection Instructions:**

Hunters may only apply once, either as an applicant or as a guest for each hunt. Select your hunts in order of preference, beginning with your first choice, by entering the corresponding hunt letter in box "1" as your first choice.

1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8				

- A Mendota, November 18, Morning  
B Mendota, November 18, Afternoon  
C Mendota, December 2, Morning  
D Mendota, December 2, Afternoon  
E O'Neill, November 18, Morning  
F O'Neill, November 18, Afternoon  
G O'Neill, December 2, Morning  
H O'Neill, December 2, Afternoon



*Game Bird*  
HERITAGE

Application due at Department of Fish and Game on **October 20, 2006, at 5:00 p.m.** to be eligible for drawing.

Additional copies of this application can be found at <http://www.dfg.ca.gov>.

**(OVER)**

Guest 2 Name (Junior Hunter)

Last 

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 M. I. 

--

M. I.  

First	(Mr., Mrs., Jr, etc.)

Hunting License Number

No.       -   ☐ Check here if Lifetime License

Address

[illegible]

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip Code \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone

Daytime                      Extension

-  -

Evening

			-				-								
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Guest 3 Name (Junior Hunter)

[illegible]

M. I.

First 

--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

 (Mr., Mrs., Jr., etc.) 

--	--	--

Hunting License Number

No.       -   ☐ Check here if Lifetime License

Address

[illegible]

City												State		Zip Code		

Telephone

**Daytime**

				-					-				
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**Extension**

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Evening

			-				-								
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Return or mail this application to:  
**Game Bird Heritage Junior Pheasant Hunts**  
**Department of Fish and Game**  
**1234 East Shaw Avenue**  
**Fresno, California 93710**

or fax:  
(559) 243-4022

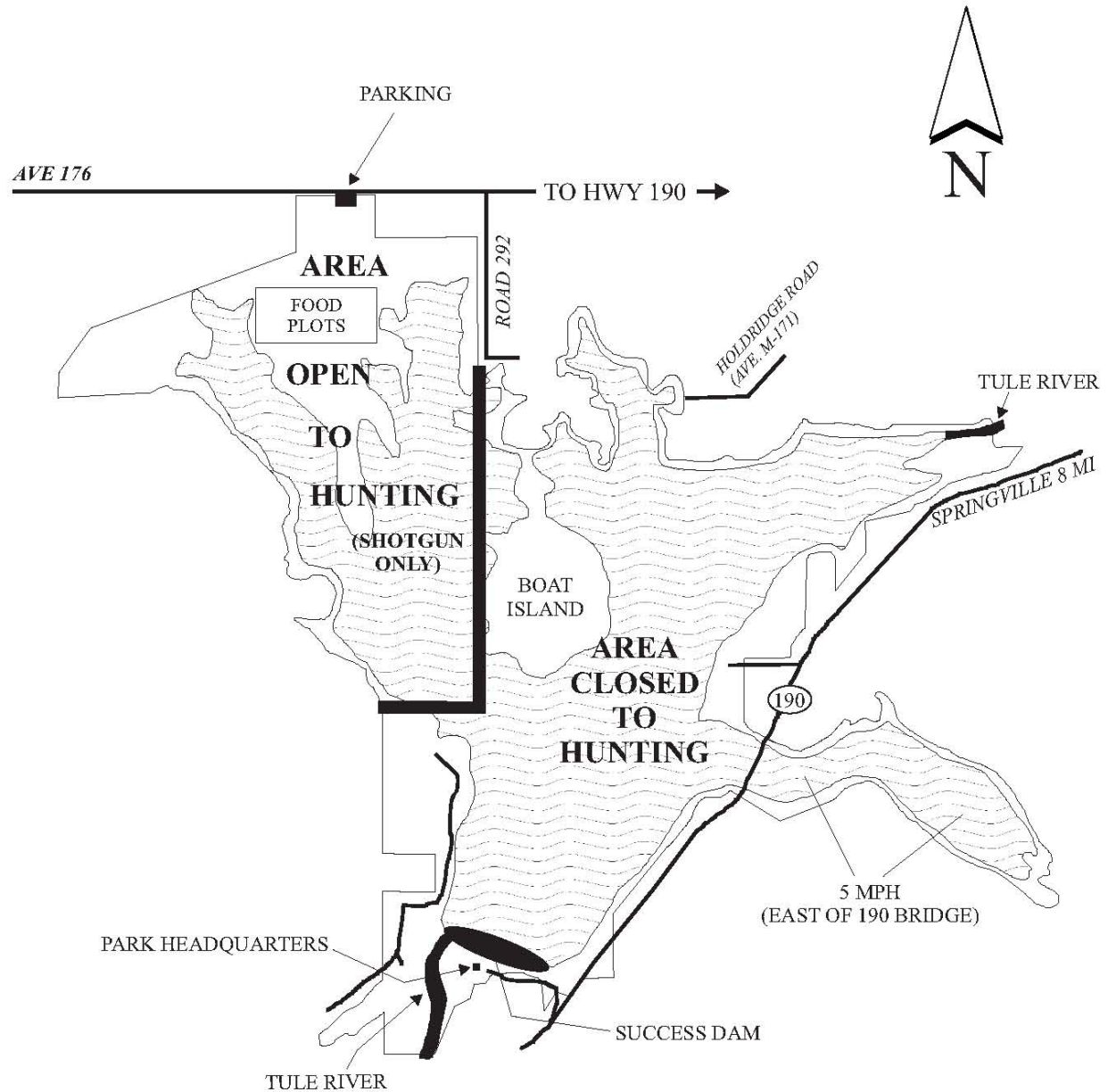
Application due at Department of Fish and Game on  
**October 20, 2006, at 5:00 p.m.** to be eligible for drawing.

Additional copies of this application can be found at <http://www.dfg.ca.gov>.

## 28

# Success Lake

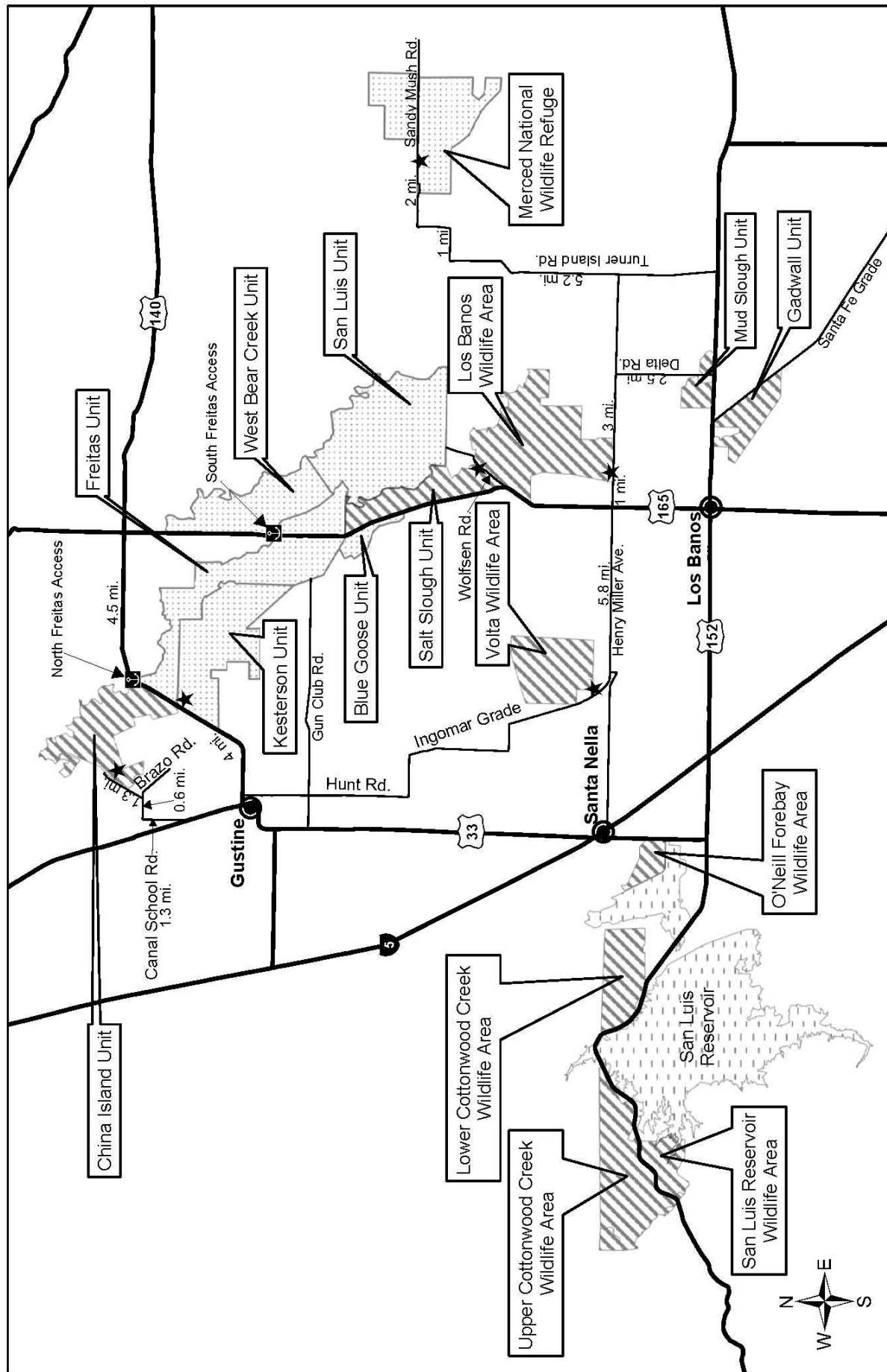
## Pheasant Hunt



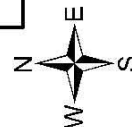
CAUTION: WATER LEVELS MAY BE SHALLOW AND DEPTHS CHANGE FREQUENTLY. VISITORS ARE REMINDED THAT UNDERWATER HAZARDS AND WATER DEPTHS ARE NOT POSTED AND SHOULD BE CHECKED BEFORE USE.

See reverse side  
for additional information

# Northern San Joaquin Valley Hunting Areas

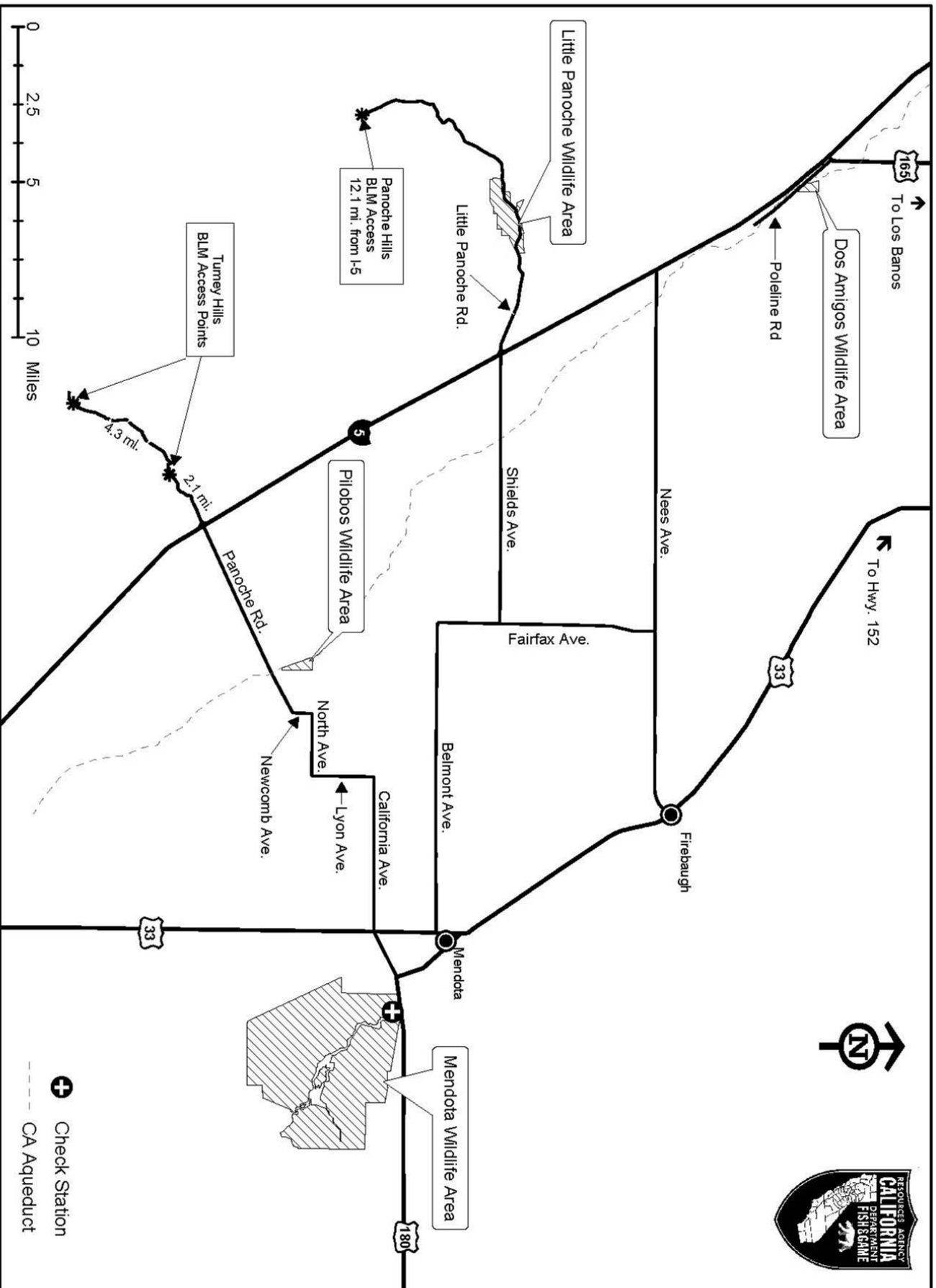


3 1.5 0 3 6 Miles





# Western San Joaquin Valley Hunt Areas



**Department of Fish and Game**  
**18110 W. Henry Miller Ave**  
**Los Banos, CA 93635**

**PRSRT STD**  
**U.S. POSTAGE PAID**  
**LOS BANOS, CA 93635**  
**PERMIT NO. 18**

## **REGIONAL OFFICES ADDRESSES AND TELEPHONE NUMBERS**

To obtain information regarding the various areas or DFG programs, call the Regional Office near the area you want to visit. Listed below are the phone numbers for the Regional Offices. Please note that several area codes have been changed.

Northern CA & North Coast Region  
601 Locust, Redding CA 96001  
(530) 225-2300

Sacramento Valley & Central Sierra Region  
1701 Nimbus Road, Rancho Cordova CA 95670  
(916) 358-2900

Central Coast Region  
7329 Silverado Trail, (PO Box 47)  
Yountville CA 94599  
(707) 944-5500

San Joaquin Valley & Southern Sierra Region  
1234 E. Shaw Avenue, Fresno CA 93710  
(559) 243-4005

South Coast Region  
4949 View Ridge Ave., San Diego CA 92123  
(858) 467-4201

Eastern Sierra & Inland Deserts Region  
4775 Bird Farm Road, Chino Hills CA 91709  
(909) 597-9823

Marine Region  
20 Lower Ragsdale Dr. #100, Monterey CA 93940  
(831) 649-2870

### **Other Department of Fish and Game Offices:**

Fish & Game Headquarters, Sacramento  
(916) 653-7664

License & Revenue Branch  
3211 S Street, Sacramento 95816  
(916) 227-2245

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The San Joaquin Valley and Southern Sierra Region Wing Beat News newsletter is edited by Janae Scruggs (losbanosinfo@dfg.ca.gov).

Alternate communication format available upon request. If reasonable accommodation is needed, call Janae Scruggs at (209) 826-0463 or the California Relay (Telephone) Service for the deaf or hearing-impaired from TDD phones at 1-800-735-2929 or 711.